

## The Indications of an Enemy

### Tracking and Scouting

#### Compilation from Gen. De Brack and Baden Powell on Outpost Duty.

BY L. R. BALL, 1st LIEUT. 13th CAVALRY

What means are there of learning the movements of the enemy during war? There are four: 1st. reports of prisoners, deserters, and travelers; 2nd. reports of spies; 3rd. reconnaissances; 4th. indications; this last is what we will consider for the present. One is enabled to draw inferences from indication by a knowledge of the general customs of war, and of the peculiarities of the enemy. It can be done only by practicing constantly in time of peace the closest observation. It is for this work during war that it is possible to perfect oneself during peace.

It may be properly said that "there is scarcely a battle in history which has not been lost or won in proportion to the value of the previous reconnaissance."

Either the armies win from knowing the weakness and strength of the enemy, or the losers have lost because of being ignorant on those points.

It is with reconnaissance that the scout has to do, and the important things to take into consideration when scouting are "indications."

Before going into indications let us first see what the qualifications of a really good scout are, for the really great work of reconnaissance is done by the single individual, who can see as much as an army and can keep himself concealed with infinitely less trouble. It is to these courageous men undergoing continual risks and privations, unostentatiously, and without the applause of their comrades and officers to give them heart, to whom we look and may expect results in time of war. It is easy for a man in the heat and excitement of battle, where everyone is striving to be first, to dash out before the rest and do some gallant deed, and when one thinks of it, it is not more dangerous to dash to the front than to the rear, because if you are already under fire, it is just as dangerous going or coming with nothing to favor either direction, but it is another thing for a man to take his life in his hands to carry out some extra dangerous bit of scouting on his own account, where there is no one by to applaud, and it might be just as easy for him to go back, that is a true bit of hero's work, and yet it is what a scout does continually as "all in the day's work." It is his own pluck and ability that enables him to carry out his work with success. For this reason his work is looked up to with the greatest respect and admiration by his comrades. The very same "scout" carries with it, even among civilians, a romantic idea of a man of exceptional courage and resources.

A scout is, nevertheless, a special man, selected for his "grit" and trained for one class of work only, and that is reconnaissance. His work is not to fight, but to get information about the country and enemy.

A man before being selected for training as a scout, should have the following points:

Specially smart, active, intelligent, and trustworthy soldier, good eyesight and hearing; healthy and sound. A man who drinks or who is liable to the recurrence of certain diseases is useless for a scout. Willing and able to turn his hand to any kind of job. Good rider and able to swim; able to read and write. The more lan-

guages and dialects he can speak, and the better actor he is, the better scout he will make.

He must then be taught: The duties of reconnoitering and combat; portables; map reading; sketching and reporting. After which he must pick up the following points which alone can make him a scout. They can be learned but are hard to teach, I can tell you but you must work them out of your own accord.

It is just like the trainer at foot ball or for a race. He can tell you what to do to become fit, but you must do as he says and not stop at home and eat dumplings if you want to be a runner. Here are the things you must get by practice and investigation. Pluck and self-reliance, finding your way in a strange country, using your eyes and ears, keeping yourself hidden, tracking, getting across country, taking care of yourself and horse, sketching and reporting information. When you have learned all these then you must know how to read "indications" even when your eyes and ears see and hear them. Let us suppose that we have learned the following facts concerning the enemy: Shoes have been distributed, troops are cleaning their guns, draught animals are being collected. If we have had experience, we know that this is an infallible sign of a movement. Suppose that: Great quantities of supplies have arrived, new and strange uniforms have appeared in the bivouacs, it is probable that reinforcements are arriving and an attack is to be looked for. If provisions are being collected at a particular place it is proof that troops will occupy it. If boats are collected at a particular point, it is proof that a crossing will be attempted, if boats are burned it is evidence of an undisguised retreat, but if the bridges are left, look out it may be a trap. If important bridges are burned, you may be sure that a long retreat is contemplated. If, at some miles above a bridge which you have constructed, large boats, heavily laden with stores, are discovered, it is an indication of an attempt to destroy your work. If ladders are collected in bivouacs it is an indication that an attempt will be made upon your field works. If, on the field of battle the artillery makes a retrograde movement it is a sign of a retreat of the whole of the enemy. If the bivouac fires of the enemy appear to be much more numerous, but smaller than usual, and purposely placed so as to make them distinctly visible, if they are lighted successively and promptly extinguished after having been lighted, it is an indication of weakness and retreat.

If the enemy's cavalry in retreat suddenly withdraws its line of being in his front which he must pass, or an indication of a probable ambush. An attack at break of day means business, for he wants all day to make it good or to get away, while if made in the evening it is only a bluff, and is made either to gain information or cover a retreat.

Traces of foot steps are not only an indication of the direction taken by the column, but also its strength and even the leading idea controlling its march.

If the ground be beaten down firmly and evenly it is infantry

only, if horse tracks are visible, cavalry also, if wheel tracks show, it would indicate artillery. The proportion of each arm is according to the comparative number of well defined impressions left by it. If the tracks are fresh, the column passed not long before, if they have little width, the troops were marching without fear of attack if broad they feared attack.

If the fields on the road side are trampled and show wide and numerous traces of moving bodies, cavalry was marching on the flanks by squadrons, in echelon, and an attack was feared. Behind a bridge, ravine, near a village, the foot prints will show whether the enemy formed for attack or not, so indicating whether he was careless in the conduct of his march.

The fires of a bivouac will indicate by their number and the amount of ashes or heat the time spent in the camp and how long it has been abandoned. The care he gave to constructing shelter the remains of forage, fragments of vessels, entrails of animals slaughtered, and dumps in general will show the numbers and duration of camps very accurately, pieces of clothing, saddlery, equipments, abandoned arms, cartridges thrown away, dead horses, blood stained clothing, hidden graves, and the care taken in digging them, are all valuable as a means of arriving at a knowledge of the regiments composing the camp, of their fatigue and discouragement, of the number of wounded carried away with them, of the gravity of their wounds and of the rank of the officers lost. The dust raised by the march of a column indicates not only its direction of march, but also its strength, its order and the kind of troops composing it.

If the reflection of arms is very bright he faces you. If troops are very far away, take two fixed points in front of them and on one of their flanks, then you can easily judge by their passage over successive distances, which separates them from these points, their direction and even their rate of marching. The excitement or insolence of the people in the enemy's country is a sure sign of the approach of the enemy's troops and the peoples confidence in him.

These are only a few of the thousand things that one must observe and read as indications of what the enemy is doing or expects to do.

Many special indications are apparent according to the characteristics of the enemy, and their organization and habits during peace.

We should therefore make a study of the people with whom we are liable to have war, learn their language and their customs and especially those characteristics which are especially noted, as these will be the things they will do in time of war and which will aid us in reading the tracks and indications as left in their camps, fires, trails, etc. In conclusion let me say that these points must be learned during peace if you hope to be a scout during war time, for you will not have time to learn it then, as the other fellow will kill you the first time you blunder. Many lives have been lost at this game of man hunt man, simply through ignorance. Men who have been taught to draw maps beautifully, and to make excellent reports in peace time, go out on service to scout, and promptly lose their way, or forget to keep hidden, and from want of quickness of eye they neglect to see the enemy stalking them—and they never turn up again—they are in the other fellow's sack.

Others, from not being accustomed to read tracks go moving about in a country full of the enemy concealed among rocks or bushes and report it all clear. Many from not having a "back door" or second line of escape, get

cut off, and most all, from want of confidence in their own ability as scouts—due to want of practice—don't shove ahead with that push and enterprise that are absolutely necessary for successful scouting. Those who are interested in this sort of work can gain much valuable information from reading "Aids to Scouting" by Major General R. S. S. Baden Powell F. R. G. S.,

#### DOG POINTED A LION.

All Game Looked Alike to This Plucky Little Fox Terrier.

The following incident is perfectly true and absolutely unique:

As a member of a colonial mounted corps, the British South Africa police of Mashonaland, Rhodesia, South Africa, it fell to my lot in April, 1903, to enumerate for official statistics the white residents of Rusapi district, which is 180 miles southeast of Salisbury, the capital, and sixty-four miles west of Umtali, near the Portuguese border. It was upon my return journey to the main camp that the following dog incident occurred:

On the 18th day of April about 4 p. m. I reached an outlying farmhouse close to the railway and in the vicinity of very suggestive looking hills. As I knew the owner, I decided to outspan there for the night. My horse having been sent to water with a native boy, the farmer and I entered the house. In a few minutes a Mashona herd boy dashed in unceremoniously, crying: "Baas! Baas! A lion is down near the cattle!" After questioning the boy, who was much excited, we set off, accompanied by a fox terrier, and upon arriving where the cattle were grazing we at once found his majesty's spoor (track), which we followed until lost on the hard ground.

After searching the most likely places we gave up hope of finding him and, turning about, headed for home. After crossing a vlei (open grass land) we entered a thick bush and proceeded a short distance. Then I missed the dog and, looking back, descried him pointing in the orthodox style, the hair on his back fiercely bristling and body as rigid as a statue. Retracing my footsteps and looking over the bushes where he was, imagine my complete surprise to behold a magnificent lion, full length, with face toward me, barely fifteen paces off. At sight of me he growled softly, and then I shouted, "There he is!" But by the time my friend had run up and I had recovered from my surprise the lion was bounding off, much to the chagrin of my friend. The bush was thick, and we had to fire at random, and he got clear away.

Needless to say a few choice epithets were slung at me by the other fellow, but it all happened very quickly, and I was totally unprepared for such a close view. Moving around behind the bushes, we found the skin and entrails of a sheep, which had been devoured, bearing out the statement that the lion will not eat the intestines of his prey. All this time the dog was jumping around and at last started off on the trail, and we had a hard job to get him back. The evening was getting dark, and we had no wish to meet the lion among the bush in the dark. After reaching home the farmer placed some strychnine on a piece of meat and placed it on the veldt, but our visitor did not return that night.

It is not often a dog has the opportunity to point such royal game.

Talking about dogs, I remember seeing an Irish terrier rout out a hedgehog, and there ensued a terrific onslaught, ending in the death of the spiny one and leaving Boxer, the terrier, full of quills, which I plucked, much to his discomfort. —Forest and Stream.

#### No Infallible Success Rules.

Power to see the future has a certain place in business, an exceedingly humble one, however. It is employed professionally by some ladies and gentlemen at an average price of about a dollar a sitting. They can see things afar off, but not the landlord who is coming up the stairs to throw them out or the policeman who is coming around the corner to run them in. Prescience and clairvoyance have no place in the equipment of men who are able to make a living in less hazardous and persecuted callings, says Will Payne in Everybody's. There are plenty of infallible rules for success. Some men who have succeeded are rather fond of laying them down for the guidance of the young, but nobody, least of all their authors, ever infallibly succeeded by them.

#### The Negro and the South.

BY GEORGE B. AMES.

The race problem was started in the South when the negro was given the ballot. A race hardly a hundred years removed from barbarism, with the bonds of slavery just broken, was given every privilege and duty of American citizenship.

This well meaning but mistaken policy declared that two races almost equal in number, but of distinct characteristics, one experienced "should line together on equal terms in peace." The history of the world forbade the policy. Where can he found the record of any two unlike races living in peace side by side under one government, and on equal terms?

Where can he found one reason to justify the belief that a simple constitutional amendment can change a prejudice as old as the world, and, reversing the history of the human race, make possible in America, under the most adverse circumstances, what had been impossible circumstances, in other countries?

From this policy, in its very being unreasonable and unjust, has involved a problem, upon whose proper solution depends the very life of the South.

Too long has the North believed that the problem will solve itself, Too long has the South rested in the belief that this country would always be ruled by white men. Too long has the whole country indulged in the belief that no harm can come to America. Let us face the conditions in the South as they are. We should no longer blind our eyes to the painful truth that in the South two opposing forces are struggling, the one to maintain supremacy, the other to secure it. Constituting these forces are two races whose combination is impossible as well as abhorrent, educated in separate schools, worshipping in separate churches, traveling in separate cars, each race following its own social inclination which never brings the two together, the races are drifting farther and farther apart.

Can the world censure the South if she refuses to accept that solution of the problem which will endanger the safety of the race to which we belong?

The South will aid the negro in protecting every right given him by the constitution, save the right of domination; but when the negro majorities assert their right to control the state governments as they will some day, the two opposing forces in the South will clash in desperate conflict. The intelligence, experience and wealth; the bitter prejudice of instinct or centuries of growth in the dominant whites, will rush, irresistibly as the incoming tide, upon the ignorance, the experience and poverty of the blacks. There is a conviction in the breast of every white man that his race must rule. You may read from our Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, you may fill our statute books to overflowing, the constitution may be amended and amended again, but the white's of the South cannot be ruled by a black majority.

Do you understand that this is a plea for slavery. The feeling of the South was voiced by Grady, when he said, "I thank God as devoutly as you do, that human slavery is gone forever from American soil." We rejoice that Abraham Lincoln broke forever the shackles that bound our states to the debasing institution of slavery. In the Southern heart there is no evil wish for the black man. He has already suffered enough. I know that the strong man of the South as Grady said, "wear this problem in their hearts and in their brains by day and by night. And I know that they realize the

debt of honor and humanity they owe the negro and the world. But, I know, too, that there are times when, almost in despair straining their eyes for one ray of light to guide them they see, "no rifted cloud, no sun shine, no hope for better things." It is there that there appears that "awful phantom whose crimson shadow they behold the dishonor and doom of a race conflict."

She South alone can solve the problem. True she has begged that its solution be left to her but that because the first suspicious, impatient step of the National Government caused her to dread and to fear another.

If the North will give us her sympathy, her earnest support, if she will let us feel our blood coursing in her veins, and hers in ours we will no longer strive to make this a Southern question indeed, it more concerns the South but we are all Americans. The problem should and does concern the whole nation and concerns it deeply.

Would you lend your efforts to word saving from ruin a great section of your country the fairest land of all the earth then "determine to take this question from the partisan handling of the demagogue, determined to make it a non-partisan work." A question for the whole nation.

Once it becomes an American problem not to be solved by a victorious North or a defeated South, but by America, it will be solved, America, and she alone must lead us out of the labyrinth and solve the problem in the eternal right.

#### Cuneiform Writing.

On the old Babylonian and Persian monuments there were wedge shaped characters, or arrow head, or well headed characters, as they were sometimes called, which constituted what was known as cuneiform writing. After the reign of Alexander the Great this writing became obsolete. The Persian cuneiform writing contains sixty letters and the Assyrian 600 to 700 characters, partly alphabetic. The most celebrated inscription in cuneiform writing is that in the ancient city of Behistun, Persia, cut on the face of a rock 1,700 feet high and recording part of the history of Darius.—Argonaut.

#### Riddles.

She was reading a paper before the Mothers' club.

"And here I will insert," she said, "half a dozen questions of the sort my little boy asks me every night before he falls asleep."

"Why does Santa Claus give children skates when there ain't any ice?"

"When I drink water, why don't it run down into my legs?"

"Is it his very best medicine that the druggist has in them big green and blue bottles?"

"Why is it I breathe out smoke when I'm cold and not when I'm warm?"

"Who cooked dinner when all the big folks was little boys?"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

#### A Collector's Bequest.

"My wish is that my drawings, my prints, my curiosities, my books—in a word, these things of art which have been the joy of my life—shall not be committed to the cold tomb of a museum and subjected to the stupid glance of the careless passerby. But I require that they shall all be dispersed under the hammer of the auctioneer, so that the pleasure which the acquiring of each one of them has given me shall be given again in each case to some inheritor of my own tastes."—From the Will of Edmond de Goncourt.

#### Sponge Treatment.

A young housekeeper in one of the suburbs had just succeeded in getting a new cook, who came highly recommended. One day Nora made a sponge cake which was so hard it could not be eaten. The housekeeper said:

"Nora, do you call this sponge cake? Why, it's as hard as can be."

"Yes, mum," replied the cook calmly. "That's the way a sponge is before it's wet. Soak it in your tea, mum."